Volume 4, Number 8 August 1995

Freedom Watch

Citizens Project

CFV Targets Gays Again, No More "Equal Rights"

Colorado for Family Values has begun circulating petitions in El Paso County to have government officials adopt a resolution setting "community standards" against homosexuality, violence and pornography. CFV is undertaking similar actions in Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Archuleta counties. This resolution is intended primarily for city councils, county commissioners, and school boards.

CFV's proposed resolution deals almost entirely with homosexuality. Kevin Tebedo, president of Colorado for Family Values, explained that his resolution could stop homosexuals from using public facilities and could also be used to ban "pornographic" magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse.

"Equal rights" are out

The slogan "Equal rights, not special rights" was the cornerstone of CFV's successful Amendment 2 campaign. In CFV's new resolution, however, the rhetoric of equal rights for homosexuals is discarded.

CFV's resolution asks officials to declare that homosexuality is incompatible with "community standards." Then, according to the resolution, governmental bodies would agree not to spend tax money for any activities which "contravene these existing community standards."

According to Kevin Tebedo, that means gay groups could no longer rent or use space in public buildings. As Kevin said, "To use taxpayer dollars – our public auditoriums – to promote homosexuality might not be something the people of the town would want."

Kevin's example concerned a Colorado Springs group that rented the Palmer High auditorium one evening last summer to show films about gay life. The films discussed AIDS, understanding homosexuality, and reparative therapy (attempting to make homosexuals into heterosexuals).

Not everyone is taken with CFV's logic. One local official, after reading CFV's resolution, suggested that if gay groups were to be banned from all taxpayer-supported public facilities, perhaps gays should also be exempt from paying taxes. Another wanted to know if gays should be made to wear pink triangles, so that their activities could more easily be monitored and kept out of public buildings.

Amendment 2 was carefully crafted by CFV to prohibit gays from requesting any protection from discrimination. Perhaps not surprisingly, now CFV has started the push for increased discrimination against gays. Increasingly, gays and lesbians may be much in need of the very protections that CFV has worked so hard to deny them.

Libraries and schools

In explaining his new resolution, Kevin Tebedo used the example of the Grand Junction public library. In an exhibit sponsored by P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians), the library there displayed books explaining homosexuality. When CFV demanded that the library remove the books, the library refused.

That's wrong, said Tebedo: "We would not want our public funds going to pay for a homosexual art display in our library." Other than books on homosexuality, Kevin was not specific about which books libraries might be forced to discard (or not purchase) under his resolution.

CFV also plans to push this new resolution onto school boards. If it is adopted, CFV would demand that schools either not discuss homosexuality or condemn it, because in CFV's thinking "talking about homosexuality legitimizes it."

The world according to CFV

CFV has a queer view of our community and of the world. In April, they charged that gays were behind the Nazi regime in Germany. Recently, they attacked the Manitou Springs City Council for including the word "rainbow" in a city planning document. CFV considered this to be evidence that "militant gay activists" were influencing the city.

Now, at a time when people want less intrusive government, CFV is pressuring governments to spearhead discrimination against our fellow gay and lesbian citizens. As Richard Skorman, board chair of Citizens Project said, "This is a vicious personal attack by CFV on law-abiding, tax-paying members of our community." **CP**

For a free copy of the proposed resolution that CFV has presented at its recent Time To Stand seminars, call Citizens Project at 520-9899.

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Citizens Project Defends Civil Rights While Celebrating Our Diversity

This article appeared in the June 21 Gazette Telegraph *in response to a number of letters to the editor attacking the work of Citizens Project. CP Board member Bruce Loeffler authored this article, with contribution from other Board members.*

Once again Citizens Project is the subject of many letters to the editor. Several people (Sally Pearcy, Chuck Goodin, James Solis and Kevin Tebedo) replied to a forum piece written by Citizens Project board member Greg Walta ("Let's do unto others..."). In different ways, all of these people were attempting to redefine Citizens Project.

Just what is Citizens Project, and why does it seem so ill-defined to some and so threatening to others?

> **Citizens Project is an organization that is driven by a set of principles, rather than by specific issues.**

Citizens Project is an organization that is driven by a set of principles, rather than by specific issues. Our mission is to uphold the "traditional American values of pluralism, freedom of religion and separation of church and state." Our vision is of "a community committed to working beyond ignorance, prejudice and fear, where differences are respected, individual rights are protected and diversity is celebrated."

> **Our mission is to uphold the traditional American values of pluralism, freedom of religion and separation of church and state.**

All the work we do, all the issues we support, are determined by this mission and vision.

To some letter writers, however, we are a "hateful, divisive" group that directly or indirectly supports all kinds of destructive behavior including shootings, beatings, drug use, theft, pedophilia, high school sex and public homosexual solicitations in Palmer Park.

These accusations hurt. We want to set the record straight.

Where we stand

Diverse is a better adjective than divisive to describe Citizens Project. Some of us are deeply religious; others are not. Some of us are Republicans; others are Democrats or Independents. Many of us support strong sex education in the public schools; others do not. Many of us believe that homosexuality is a natural and immutable variation of human sexuality; others believe it is a choice or a sin.

What binds us together is our respect for pluralism, our commitment to dialogue and our resistance to those who would impose one viewpoint on all.

While we know that most people in our community are reasoned individuals of good faith, we feel compelled to answer several recent charges specifically.

1) *Citizens Project is not hostile to religion.* In fact, Citizens Project adamantly supports everyone's right to hold their own religious beliefs and to practice their faith without interference from government or from those who hold different beliefs. While we understand that proselytizing is a tenet of some faiths, we reject the viewpoint of those who insist that anyone who does not believe as they do is suspect, amoral or inferior.

And we resist attempts to

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Legal Updates

Student-led graduation prayers

In late June, the U.S. Supreme Court nullified a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that had found student-led prayer at high school graduations to be unconstitutional (as described in the May *Freedom Watch*). The case, which started in Idaho in 1991, was dismissed because the plaintiff's son had graduated in early June. Pat Robertson, head of Christian Coalition, was jubilant: "This is a slam-dunk for student-led school prayer." Focus on the Family's Dr. James Dobson declared "a definite victory" in the decision.

Both Robertson and Dobson engage in a bit of wistful thinking, as the Supreme Court's action declaring this case to be moot does not constitute a ruling on the prayer issue. The constitutionality of these student-led graduation prayers remains undecided by the Supreme Court.

In his comments on the case, Dr. Dobson suggested that his proposed Religious Equality Amendment, if approved, would take care of any ambiguity by allowing students to impose prayers on their fellow public school students in such situations. The Religious Equality Amendment which Focus supports was discussed in the June *Freedom Watch*.

Public aid for religions

In a closely-watched case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled by a 5-4 vote that the student activity fees at the University of Virginia must subsidize an evangelical Christian magazine in the same manner as these fees subsidize non-religious publications. "Vital First Amendment speech principles are at stake here," said Justice Kennedy in the majority opinion.

In this case, these speech considerations led the majority of the Justices to disregard the First Amendment's Establishment Clause concerns about direct government financing of a religious activity. The majority ruling noted that the money did not come directly from the state but from the required student activity fees, and suggested that the holding in this case may be limited to these particular facts.

Nonetheless, supporters of school vouchers, which would use public money to pay for religious school tuition, expressed hope that the Supreme Court had at last pointed the way to constitutionality for vouchers.

More Nativity scenes

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 7-2 vote, agreed that the Ku Klux Klan had a constitutional right to erect a cross in a state park in Columbus, Ohio. The majority opinion said that such religious symbols could be displayed, if the state had earlier allowed other forms of private expression in the same location. Some of the Justices expressed concern that the State of Ohio might appear to endorse the cross that the Ku Klux Klan had erected in the park, but nonetheless concurred with the result.

The most immediate beneficiaries of this new Supreme Court decision are orthodox Jews, who want to place Hanukkah menorahs in public parks, and Christian groups who would like to display Nativity scenes on courthouse lawns.

Perhaps other minority religions as well will begin to participate in the Court's expanded accommodation to religious expression, so that public property will become crowded with the various symbols of our nation's estimated 2,000 different faith groups.

Support for parochial schools

The federal Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (West Coast area) recently upheld a program under which a public school district was lending computers and library books to religious schools. The court also ruled that the school district may hold federally financed remedial classes in mobile classrooms on the grounds of religious schools. Neither of these programs, the court held, violates the First Amendment's establishment of religion clause.

Congress starts school prayer debate

The House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution started debate on a school prayer amendment. The debate was lively, and many were concerned how a new amendment would protect the rights of minority religions. At one point, Rep. Melvin Watt of North Carolina confronted Rep. Istook of Oklahoma (sponsor of the prayer amendment): "What you are saying is that you want to amend the Federal Constitution to give that control to the majority, and I can understand your desire to do that because you are a member of the majority religion. If everything that was in the Constitution was done by a simple majority, then I guess you would have a Constitution that was based on protecting the rights of the majority." **CP**

Citizens Project Defends Civil Rights

[Continued from Page 1]

force specific religious beliefs on others. For example, we oppose the teaching of creationism as science in public schools, but support public schools teaching about religions. We oppose organized prayer in public schools so that children of minority faiths will not feel coerced or compelled to pray outside their faiths, but support the rights of individual students to express their faith personally.

2) *Citizens Project does not promote "hateful, divisive, virulent talk."* Citizens Project believes in rational discussion, not angry confrontation. Toward this end, we have sponsored dozens of Dialogue Dinners to bring orthodox and progressive members of our community together to discuss their different views.

What binds us together is our respect for pluralism, our commitment to dialogue and our resistance to those who would impose one viewpoint on all.

And no, we don't support condom-throwing. For the record, at the time of the incident at Village Seven Presbyterian Church, we issued a statement condemning it, just as we condemn the aggressive and confrontational tactics of Operation Rescue.

3) *Citizens Project is not intolerant of those with opposing beliefs.* Citizens Project strongly supports everyone's First Amendment right to state their views and to advocate for their positions in the political forum. We may oppose political positions or methods, based upon our mission, but we certainly support the equal rights of all to vigorous, civil public debate. Tolerance does not mean "anything goes," nor does it mean that positions should not be taken. It does mean treating others fairly.

Further, as in the diabolical portrayals of Citizens Project, the nature of the opposition is often exaggerated. There are many areas of morality where we and all people agree, whatever their faith or political orientation (e.g., theft and pedophilia). However, there are other areas where people of strong moral conviction and good conscience can and do disagree.

Citizens Project believes that we can create community–by recognizing our common moral base and by talking about, understanding and working reasonably with our differences.

Tebedo's accusations

In correcting misconceptions and distortions, Kevin Tebedo's forum piece (which appeared in the *Gazette Telegraph* on June 1) deserves special attention. First, we agree that Citizens Project is not neutral–we believe in and advocate for our mission. But Tebedo alleges that our views cannot produce a tolerant society, and offers as proof four examples of what he claims we believe. Unfortunately, these examples range from misleading to slanderous. None reflects our actual positions.

Tebedo argues that because Citizens Project opposed Amendment 2, we want to "force all segments of society to accept homosexuality as proper, good and beneficial for America and Colorado." His statement has nothing to do with our opposition to Amendment 2.

In opposing Amendment 2, we believe that people should have equal access to protection from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. We view equal access as a fundamental, not a special, right, and see Amendment 2 as preventing one group from having the access that the rest of us enjoy. And, Mr. Tebedo, the fact that Greg Walta and others may believe that homosexuality is a sin has nothing to do with their opposition to discrimination.

Tolerance does not mean "anything goes," nor does it mean that positions should not be taken. It does mean treating others fairly.

Tebedo's assertion that Citizens Project "tolerates the kind of (sexual) behavior going on in Palmer Park" is simply ridiculous. For the record, Citizens Project thinks sexual activity in public is inappropriate and that public decency laws should be strictly enforced in our city's parks. Tebedo's allegation can be taken in the same vein that we take his revisionist accounts of Nazi violence during the Holocaust ("Homosexuality inspired the ruthlessness of the entire (Nazi) regime," *CFV Report*, April 1995). These outrageous distortions have no place in a rational discussion of opposing viewpoints.

The question of "false witness" also brings us to the issue of human relations. Tebedo states that "Citizens Project called the Federal Civil Rights Division in Denver and filed a complaint against Colorado Springs for gross civil-rights violations..." This is a total fabrication. After we read this charge, we made some calls. No such office even exists. The closest agency we could find in Denver was the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights–a research agency. They do not take complaints, and they had never heard of Citizens Project. We invite Tebedo to help us put this nasty rumor to rest.

Citizens Project does strongly support the efforts of the Colorado Springs Community Initiative to advance human relations in Colorado Springs. We have never stated that we desired "an empowered, enforcement-capable commission to have the power of subpoena." This appears to be another calculated invention by Tebedo.

Tebedo thinks that Citizens Project "declarations of tolerance and diversity come to an abrupt halt when it comes to Colorado for Family Values," and that Citizens Project thinks CFV "should have no say when it comes to setting the agenda for Colorado Springs." While we appreciate Tebedo's acknowledgment that CFV has an agenda, we must again disagree with his statements about us. We support CFV's right to state its views and to advocate for its positions. We cannot "welcome with open arms" blatant misstatements of fears as fact, for among the values we hold dear are honesty and integrity.

Diversity with respect

Citizens Project welcomes rational, respectful discussion of the many difficult issues facing our community. We are quite proud of our contributions to this end in our short, three-year existence. We strongly believe that community forged out of understanding and tolerance will be better and stronger for its diversity. We also believe that fears, stereotypes and misinformed exaggerations (yes, held by many of us, regardless of our views) must be challenged if we are to create a city in which widely held values and civility prevail. **CP**

On the Politics of "Non-political"

"Focus is not a 'political organization'–and, in fact, we spent only 3.8 percent of our income on public policy issues last year." Focus on the Family's display ad in the July 23 *Gazette Telegraph*. With an estimated income of nearly $100 million per year, this indicates that Focus spent nearly four million dollars last year to influence public policy issues.

"We have fought for the unborn child and for local control of schools and for a more reasonable tax structure for families. These are not 'political' activities, even though most of them occurred within the political arena." Focus on the Family's Dr. James Dobson, in his July letter to supporters.

News Briefs

An alternative for evangelicals

Christian evangelical groups have long been burdened by the public's belief in an identity between evangelicals and the religious right. This correspondence is often faulty; a new poll shows that only one in three evangelicals identifies with the religious right. However, the generally conservative politics of evangelicals makes difficult clear differentiation between the two. Indeed many evangelicals, even if they disagree with the more strident politics of religious right groups, tend to keep a low profile lest they be labeled as "heretics." Now, however, a new Christian group (which includes some prominent evangelicals) has formed to provide an alternative to the right-wing politics of groups such as Christian Coalition and Focus on the Family. As this group's Cry for Renewal statement says, "The issues of political morality we now confront are too important to be left to only one voice." This emerging group, composed of some 80 religious organizations, can be reached at (202) 328-8842. *For a free copy of their Cry for Renewal document, call 634-2836.*

Women's conference slammed

What's the biggest threat to the family in the last 50 years? Or perhaps in the history of the world? You were wrong if you said war or poverty or even hunger. According to Dr. Dobson, it's the upcoming 4th UN conference on the rights of women. "You would not believe what they hope to accomplish there, including the complete destruction of the family," he said. Dobson went on to call the conference "the most radical, atheistic and anti-family crusade in the history of the world" and "Satan's trump card." Focus on the Family is sending five observers to the conference, to be held in China August 30 to September 15. Other groups, such as Concerned Women for America, have expressed concern that the UN conference will not sufficiently emphasize the biblical leadership role of men.

Favorable court cases don't slow prayer amendment drive

Recent Supreme Court decisions have given the concerned religious communities much more of what they want (see the *Legal Updates* in this issue). Yet, these conservative Christian organizations still want more. Specifically, they want to dramatically expand the reach of religious expression with their Religious Equality Amendment. Tom Minnery of Focus on the Family said that this new constitutional amendment was still necessary to make needed religious changes at the elementary and high school levels. President Clinton, in a recent speech, said that such a constitutional amendment would be unwise and unnecessary, but endorsed the manifold religious expression opportunities that presently exist in public schools.

Right-wing groups disagree on *Priest*

What do right-wing Christian "watchdog" groups think about the new film *Priest*, recently released by the Disney subsidiary Miramax Films? Well, that depends on who's talking. The film is "smut" and "blasphemous," according to American Life League president Judie Brown. On the other hand, the Christian Film and Television Commission called it a "profound film" and gave it the highest rating. Some fifty conservative ministries have urged a boycott of Disney until the organization issues a public apology to all Christians. So far, Disney has not complied.

Power Rangers satanic?

Do your kids watch the Power Rangers on TV? You know, the new Fox show that features six cartoon heroes fighting evil. Well, watch out–Satan may be at work! Two articles in the May *Colorado Christian News* claim that the do-good Power Rangers are a treacherous trick of Satan. Children become obsessed and deceived, one article said, due to the "daily doses of Power Ranger magic with its pulsating rock beat." The extraordinary strength of the Power Rangers is really the occult power of Satan, since only Satan and God have supernatural powers. What does CCN recommend to get your kids back in touch with reality? Feed them "a daily diet of biblical truth."

Attend church or else!

A Lutheran parochial school in Wisconsin expelled several students because their parents failed to attend church regularly. The school principal stated that the students could return when their parents became active in the church. Some parents instead moved their children to public school. Opponents of tax subsidies (and school vouchers) for private schools are concerned that parochial schools want the tax dollars, but still want the right to expel students for virtually any reason.

No nudes is good nudes

Florida's American Family Association, in conjunction with Christian Coalition, successfully petitioned the Brevard County (FL) Commissioners to vote in an ordinance that bans nudity on Florida beaches. The ordinance is designed to end 25 years of skinny-dipping at isolated Playalinda Beach, near the Kennedy Space Center. Skinny-dipping threatens our nation, said the AFA, because it "degrades women and facilitates other activities which break down societal family structures and values." Free beach users have filed suit against the county commissioners, putting the ordinance temporarily on hold.

Parental rights group forms

The Colorado Christian Coalition reports that a new chapter of Of The People is forming in our state. Working under the name "Coalition for Parental Responsibility," this group wants to end the government's ability to limit parental actions toward children. Critics are concerned that an exclusion of government from all facets of the parent-child relationship may lead to increased child abuse.

A network of special interest groups

Just a few years ago, Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council were part of the same organization. Then, Focus and FRC legally separated (although their relationship continues to be extremely close) in order that Washington-based FRC could pursue a more activist course. Now, FRC has spawned the even-more aggressive group American Renewal – "A movement for family, faith, and freedom." Gary Bauer, head of both FRC and American Renewal, promises that American Renewal will begin "hard-hitting" lobbying to "affect how members of Congress vote on specific issues."

All those troublesome pagans

Just last month, Dr. Dobson of Focus on the Family wrote that those who disagreed with his conservative Christian positions on public policy were agents of the Devil. Then, Christian Coalition's Pat Robertson stated on his *700 Club* television show that members of mainstream Christian churches who are not "born-again" are not really Christians at all. Now, the publisher of the arch-conservative weekly *World* news magazine charges that non-Christians and moderate "Christians" cause many of America's problems. "Moral confusion," writes *World*, "is the natural fruit of the rejection of a biblical order for society. A government that encourages its citizens to worship whichever god they choose, or none at all if that is what they choose, should be ready to live with the mish-mash of morality that results....[T]he more we have adopted relativism and pluralism as laudable goals, the tougher it has become for us to live together."

How to stop Californians

Westword, a Denver weekly, recently printed the "Best Way to Discourage Californians From Coming To Colorado." Have them make their first stop at Colorado Springs, said a satirical *Westword*, for a week of "altitude adjustment." Included on this welcome wagon tour: "square-dancing practice at the Focus on the Family Re-Education Camp, tickets to the studio audience of Chuck Baker's radio talk show, a gun-safety lecture from Eugene Baylis and free Colorado Militia T-shirts for the kids. While in town, they'll also visit the new Francisco Martin Duran Center for Political Studies. Don't let the bunker door hit you on the way out." **CP**

Announcements

Denver chapter starts

Americans United for Separation of Church and State is starting a Denver chapter. As their announcement states: "A very challenging future awaits us." If you would like to join or get more information, you can call them at (303) 763-6168.

Conversations 2000

The Colorado Endowment for the Humanities is sponsoring Conversations 2000 groups here in the Pikes Peak region. These are discussion groups that will meet five times over a two month period (probably in October and November) to discuss the themes of American Identity, Roots and Family, Community, The Land, and The American Dream. To receive more information, or to sign up, call the Colorado Endowment at (303) 573-7733.

Parents with gay children

Author Robert Bernstein talks about his book *Straight Parents/Gay Children: Keeping Families Together* on Saturday, July 29 at 7 p.m. in Gaylord Hall, Colorado College. Bernstein, a retired attorney and former law professor, relates his experiences coming to terms with his daughter's homosexuality. This event is co-sponsored by The Chinook Bookshop and Colorado College.

Join the Parade of Homelesness

The Colorado Springs community takes pride in the many Parade of Homes events, in which the paying public is invited to tour luxury homes. Not everyone can aspire so high. As a reminder of the unfilled basic needs of many of our fellow citizens, the Colorado Springs Housing Coalition is holding its rival Parade of Homelessness, and you are invited to participate. This parade has two convenient times. First, parade participants will meet Thursday July 27 at 4 p.m. at the Soup Kitchen on Bijou and Cascade (behind the Firestone Garage); the parade will then go to Springs Ranch (near Sky Sox Stadium) for two hours. Second, on Saturday July 29, participants will meet at the Soup Kitchen at Noon, thereafter to march in the Skyway area. For more information, call 634-0738.

Unity Fest in August

The Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church is sponsoring Unity Fest IV, its annual festival to present the culturally rich heritage of our city's various ethnic groups and help bring our diverse community together. The festival will be held Saturday, August 26, at Memorial Park. The event will feature music, dance, crafts, games, art and other fun activities for the entire family. All are invited to attend. For more information, call Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church at 591-6271.

Communities workshop

Community Quest is presenting a three-day seminar and exhibition about ecologically sustainable communities. The seminar will be October 19-22 at Winter Park, Colorado. You can receive more information by calling 488-2966. **CP**

The Judeo-Christian Myth

By Skipp Porteous

Christian politicians have increasingly invoked the term "Judeo-Christian" in their speeches to general audiences. This curious construct, while not new, gained currency in the early 1980s. At that time, the sectarian rhetoric of Rev. Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority alarmed the Jewish community. To ease Jewish concern, the Falwell camp began to emphasize the term "Judeo-Christian," saying that, after all, Christianity is based on Judaism.

Thus, "Judeo-Christian" became a ploy to quiet Jewish criticism of the emerging religious right. Cynically, the forces of exclusion embraced a terminology of inclusion.

When the religious right uses "Judeo-Christian," to whom does the term actually refer? According to Charles R. Phillips, author of a popular political handbook used by the religious right, people who embrace "Judeo-Christian values" are those who oppose abortion, homosexuality (they call it sodomy), "pornography as an art form," and "sex education that neglects chastity and condones free distribution of condoms."

Robert Simonds, [formerly] head of the National Association of Christian Educators, a group dedicated to electing candidates to school boards who hold "Judeo-Christian" values, writes: "America is great because devout Christians and courageous politicians have used biblical values to shape our political institutions." "America," he adds, "is not the product of secular humanism, atheism, or any other false religion. America is the fruit of God's eternal truth in Christ, the Ten Commandments (the Jewish component)...."

When speaking exclusively to Christians, however, Simonds reveals the truth of the matter: "The Christian religion (the Bible) is the basis for all morality (right and wrong)."

In 1989, the Rev. Pat Robertson formed a powerful new political organization. It is noteworthy that, although he continually preaches on "Judeo- Christian values," he named his group the "Christian Coalition."

And, lest there be any confusion among "the faithful" as to whom the term truly applies, Jimmy Swaggart, writing in *The Evangelist*, used the term "Judeo-Christian," but added "Christian" in parenthesis.

Christian politicians are employing "Judeo-Christian" in their external appeals because they know that overt expressions of anti-Semitism are political suicide. Several years ago, on a talk show, I characterized the Rev. Donald Wildmon (head of the American Family Association) as anti-Semitic. He quickly denied my allegation, saying he had a Jewish brother-in-law, "and my Lord was a Jew."

In fact, the term "Judeo-Christian" is based on an erroneous understanding of both Christianity and Judaism. It is true that both Jews and Christians share some common scripture, but each reads that scripture differently. For the Jews, the Hebrew Bible is the record of the Israelites' formative experiences with God. For the Christian, it is a record of a Covenant made and broken– hence the Christian term "Old Testament" or old covenant, which must be fulfilled by the New Testament (or new covenant, made with the new Israel, the Church).

Thus, the term "Judeo-Christian" refers only to the pre-history of the modern Jewish experience. But Jewish history did not end with the Hebrew Bible; it has continued to the present and will keep evolving in the future. In effect, the term "Judeo-Christian" denies the uniqueness of Jewish history, experience, and faith.

The question remains, "Isn't Christianity derived from the teaching of Jesus, who was Jewish?" No, Jesus never intended to start a new religion. It was Paul who founded Christianity, heralding a crucified Jew as the Messiah.

"Judeo-Christian" is false and misleading. Jews who feel accepted and comforted by being part of the so-called "Judeo-Christian tradition" should be aware that this misleading expression excludes them, and glorifies the triumph of Christianity. •

Skipp Porteous, a former Pentecostal minister, is president of The Institute for First Amendment Studies, Inc.

Inside CP *by Megan Day*

Volunteers

We would like to thank all of the dedicated, WONDERFUL, Citizens Project volunteers for donating their time, energy and expertise. Citizens Project is a volunteer-driven organization in every sense, so your efforts are invaluable. Here are our current volunteer opportunities:

- *Freedom Watch* mailing volunteers, to help with the bulk mailing of our monthly newsletter one afternoon each month,
- An office volunteer for Tuesday afternoon, to help with office work from 1-4 p.m. every Tuesday,
- Help with our bookkeeping and accounting, and
- Volunteers to help with our move (see below).

We're on the move

As we mentioned before, Citizens Project will soon have a new and more convenient home downtown at 31 East Platte. We just learned that we can move in even earlier than expected. In order to have the office up and running as soon as possible, we will move on Saturday, July 29 starting at 8:30 a.m. Can you help on Saturday? Free pizza & fun times!! We will also need help boxing before the move and unpacking after the move (if you cannot make it on Saturday). Please let us know if you can be there. Even though the office will move, our mailing address and phone number will not change.

Internship opportunities

Internships are a great way to gain valuable experience as you get started on a career or while you are still a student. While we won't shower you with money (that's an understatement), we promise to provide great work experience, responsibility, and interaction with extraordinary people. *Warning:* grunt work also involved.

We have two positions. If you're interested in either of these positions, believe in our mission and can commit to at least three months, please contact the CP office. Here are the internships:

- *Program Assistant Internship.* We are looking for someone who can dedicate at least 10 hours/week to CP for work on projects such as a candidate survey, fundraising events and a Get Involved Seminar. Most work will take place in the CP office within normal business hours.
- *Freedom Watch Journalism Internship.* Do you have experience writing, editing and/or reporting? Would you like to gain more experience in these areas and write about local issues and events? Flexible hours and some work can be done at home.

Wish list

We need a sophisticated double tape deck/radio with auto reverse and a timer if possible. Has your conversion to CD's left you with idle tape decks? We'll be glad to take them off your hands.

We appreciate your calls

Feel free to call the office with any questions or concerns. Our phone is 520-9899. We enjoy hearing from you! **CP**

Our Mission: Citizens Project is a grassroots organization in the Pikes Peak region dedicated to upholding the traditional American values of pluralism, freedom of religion and separation of church and state.

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